

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

BY

THOMAS U. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE WHISTON
RURAL DISTRICT.

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Officers:—

Medical Officer of Health:

T. U. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector: W. H. BONE R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: A. RIGBY.

Sanitary Engineer: W. GARBUTT.

Annual Report for 1943.

As usual, during the period of war, the Report is curtailed, many items being omitted, and others restricted or reserved for future consideration.

A copy of the usual summary supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health was returned to him in July.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres): 29,440.

Population—Census, 1931: 22,864.

Number of inhabited houses—Census, 1931: 4,808.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area:

The inhabitants are mostly of the working class, and the chief industries are agriculture and coal mining.

Extent of unemployment: Practically none.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment: None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year: None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health: None.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults: None.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS	337	319	656
Legitimate	324	312	636
Illegitimate	13	7	20
STILL BIRTHS	10	13	23
Legitimate	10	13	23
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	18	25	43
Legitimate	18	22	40
Illegitimate	—	3	3

Live birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated population: 19.4.

Still birth-rate per 1,000 (live and still births): 33.8.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
DEATHS	165	162	327
Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population: 9.68.			

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT IN 1943.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
All Causes	165	162	327
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Diphtheria	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	4	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	2	3
Syphilitic Diseases	2	0	2
Influenza	1	5	6
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (m.), uterus (f.)	0	3	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum.....	6	7	13
Cancer of breast	0	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	14	10	24
Diabetes	2	1	3
Inter-cranial vascular lesions	14	16	30
Heart disease	39	32	71
Other diseases of circulatory system	0	3	3
Bronchitis	7	3	15
Pneumonia	6	11	17
Other respiratory diseases	5	2	7
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	8	2	10
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Other digestive diseases	6	3	9
Nephritis	6	2	8
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	0	1	1
Premature birth	1	2	3
Congenital malformation, birth in- juries, etc.	5	7	12
Suicide	1	0	1
Road traffic accidents	5	0	5
Other violent causes	4	5	9
All other causes	21	30	51

2.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: T. U. Mercer.

Special diplomas or certificates of qualification: M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Is he a whole or part-time officer of the local authority?—Part.

Any other public appointments held by him?—None.

Is he in private practice?—Yes.

Sanitary Inspectors:—

W. H. Bone, C.R.S.I., Whole-time.

A. Rigby, C.R.S.I., Whole-time.

Other Public Health Officers: None.

Laboratory facilities: None.

Ambulance facilities: There have been no changes and arrangements appear to be sufficient.

Nursing in the Home: None.

Hospitals in the district:—

(a) Public hospitals: No change.

(b) Voluntary hospitals: No change.

Institutional provision in the area for:—

Unmarried mothers: Whiston County Hospital, by Lancashire County Council.

Illegitimate infants: ditto.

Homeless children: ditto.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY—

Particulars of any new sources of public supply: None.

Is supply of district satisfactory?—

(a) In quality: Yes.

(b) In quantity: Yes.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination: In one isolated area, several attacks of acute diarrhoea occurred in the summer months. The water was examined and was found to be free from bacteria, but on chemical analysis it was found to contain zinc, apparently dissolved from the interior of the galvanised pipes, to the extent of 0.1 per 10,000 parts.

Bacteriological examinations: One. Result: Negative.

Chemical analyses: One. Result: Zinc, as above. Examinations are usually carried out by the supplying authorities.

Nature of extensions during the year: None.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—

Any important extension of sewerage: None.

Progress made in improving character and sufficiency of arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all parts of the area: No change.

RIVERS AND STREAMS—

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams: Samples of sewage and trade effluents submitted for analysis from sewage and other works in the district.

Sources and nature of pollution: From sewage works and chemical works.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION at end of 1943—

Privy middens—No. of middens: 967.

No. of closets attached to these middens: 1,143.

No. of pail closets	102
No. of dryashpits (excluding middens)	399
No. of movable ashbins	6,518
No. of houses on water carriage system	7,917
No. of fresh water closets	8,134
No. of waste water closets	None

Conversions during 1943:—

No. of privy closets—	
To fresh w.c.'s	None
To waste w.c.'s	None
To pails, etc.	None
No. of pail closets—	
To fresh w.c.'s	None
To waste w.c.'s	None
No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s	None
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	None

PUBLIC CLEANSING—

There has been no change during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS during 1943 (including Housing)—

Number of premises visited: 476.

Defects or nuisances:—No. discovered: 131. No. abated: 114.

No. of Notices served:—Informal: 32. Statutory: 4.

Legal proceedings: None.

SHOPS AND OFFICES—

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of:—

- (a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences: None.
- (b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.: None.

CAMPING SITES (other than Military)—

No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1943: None.

SMOKE ABATEMENT—

Any action taken with regard to smoke abatement: None.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry: None.

SWIMMING BATHS and POOLS—

Public Swimming Baths or Pools: None in district.

Privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to public: None.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS—

Methods employed: Fumigation with S.O.₂; Spraying with Solution D.

SCHOOLS—

Sanitary condition: Generally satisfactory.

Water supply: All from mains. Is it satisfactory?—Yes.

OFFENSIVE TRADES—

No. of premises: None in district.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937—

Observations on the administration of the Act: Conditions fair.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES—

No. on register: None.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS—

No. on register: None.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.—

Action taken: Six vans used for habitation removed from district.

Action required: None.

UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS—

Any need for regulations?—None.

CANAL BOATS—

Number inspected: None.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928—

No. of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold: None.

NOTABLE SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS during 1943—

None.

4.—HOUSING.**(a) STATISTICS.****NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:—**

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) None
 - (i) By the local authority None
 - (ii) By other local authorities None
 - (iii) By other bodies or persons None
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:
 - (i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above) None
 - (ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above) None

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts): 345.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: 384.
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932: None.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: None.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation: None.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation: None.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers: 340.

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs: None.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners: None.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners: None.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied: 24.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners: None.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners: None.
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made: None.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders: None.
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made: None.
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit: None.

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year: Considerable.
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein: Considerable.
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein: Considerable.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year: Several.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year: None.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases: None.

(b) HOUSING CONDITIONS

1. General Observations as to Housing Conditions:—

Conditions similar to those reported last year.
Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district: 30.

2. Sufficiency of Supply of Houses.

- (a) Extent of shortage: Very considerable.
- (b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated: Four houses being erected for agricultural workers, two in Bold and two in Tarbock.
- (c) Any important changes in population: None.
- (d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses: None.

3. Overcrowding.

- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1943: None.
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations: None.

- (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: None.
- (d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, e.g., causes—how far it is due to inability to pay the rents of available houses, etc.: Overcrowding is chiefly due to people who have been evacuated from large towns. Not due to inability to pay rents.

4. Fitness of Houses.

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts: None.
- (b) Number of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply: 73.

5. Action Taken during the Year regarding:—

Clearance Areas—

- No. of areas represented: None.
- No. of areas cleared: None.
- No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants: None.

Improvement Areas—

- No. of areas represented: None.
- No. of houses demolished: None. No. of tenants displaced: None.
- No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants: None.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) MILK SUPPLY.—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926: Premises inspected periodically by Sanitary Inspector and samples of milk submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

The Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938—

“Tuberculin Tested” Milk—

- (i) Bottling: None.
- (ii) Distribution: None.

“Accredited” Milk—

- (i) Bottling: None.
- (ii) Distribution: None.

No. of licences issued in respect of “Pasteurised” milk:—

Pasteurising plants: None. Retail distributors: Three.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation: None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected: Yes.

How often?: Frequently.

What is their condition?: Generally satisfactory.

Has the owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds?:

Cowshed for 24 cows erected at Heath Farm, Liverpool Road, Bold.

Any information as to the cost of the work?: Not known.

Farms.

Number of dairy farms: 104.

Approximate number of cows in the district: 1,100.

Cowkeepers.

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms): 104.

Number of inspections during the year: 128.

Dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers).

Number of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers): 6.
 Action taken by local authority as to—

- (i) Tuberculous milk:
 No. of samples submitted for biological test: 64.
 Result—Positive: 6. Negative: 58.
- (ii) Bacteriological examinations: None.
- (iii) Sediment tests: None.

(2) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS—

- (a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared: Inspected from time to time by Sanitary Inspector.
 Number of legal proceedings, and result: None.
- (b) Has a public slaughterhouse been provided?: No.
- (c) Food poisoning (including suspected cases): No cases reported.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**Hospital Accommodation provided or available—**

For smallpox: Arrangements made with Liverpool Corporation.

Number of beds: Minimum, 5 beds.

Where situate: Within the City of Liverpool.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"?—Agreement on the basis of one bed for each 10,000 of population.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority?—No.

For other infectious diseases: Isolation Hospital.

Number of beds: 84.

Where situate: Delph Lane, Whiston.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"?—Joint Hospital Board for Whiston Rural and Huyton and Prescott Urban Districts.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority?—Yes.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

Review briefly the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1943: During the first quarter of the year, measles was the most prevalent of the infectious diseases, but the outbreak, which had lasted for some months in 1942, soon declined and very few cases were notified in the second half of the year. Most of the scarlet fever cases occurred in the second half when the disease was prevalent in the neighbouring towns, but it was of a mild type and there were no deaths.

Particulars of the clinical type and spread of diphtheria and cerebro-spinal fever: Diphtheria cases were spread almost evenly in the four quarters, and some were of a severe type. Only one of the cerebro-spinal fever cases really belonged to the district. The others were from the County Hospital, admitted from outside areas for treatment.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation?—None.

Particulars of any existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera: Of the 118 cases of pneumonia, 83 were notified from the Whiston County Hospital, where they had been admitted for treatment. Of these, 72 were from outside districts, some of whom at least, may have been notified before admission. In my opinion, these cases should be notified by the district from which they have been admitted and so avoid redundancy.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of—

- (a) Diphtheria anti-toxin: Supplied free on request.
Are supplies readily available?—Yes.
If so, where kept?—Isolation Hospital, Whiston.

- (b) Anti-meningococcus serum: No applications.
Are supplies readily available?—No.

Are any other vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners?
—None.

State whether the following diseases were compulsorily notifiable in your district during 1943, and, if so, state for what period (see Table):—

Measles (prior to 23rd October, 1943): Yes, throughout the year.

Whooping cough (prior to 23rd October, 1943): Yes, throughout the year.

Diarrhoea (under 2 years): No. Chicken pox: No.

Any others: None.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.

No. of specimens examined in 1943: (a) Diphtheria, 26; (b) Scarlet Fever, None; (c) Enteric Fever, 1; (d) Miscellaneous: None.

Immunisation.

(1) Diphtheria.—Action taken to provide artificial immunisation:

- (a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools: None.
(b) At special clinics or day schools: Immunisation of children of both school and pre-school age, is carried on at day schools.
(c) Otherwise than (a) or (b): At a private room in one locality, and by a travelling van in outside areas, and at the homes of children in isolated places.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners?—
Yes, on request.

Number of children immunised during the year:—

- (i) Pre-school children: 663. (ii) School children: 464.
(iii) Adults: None. Prophylatics used: A.P.T.

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken?—No.

(2) Scarlet Fever.—Action taken to provide artificial immunisation:
None.

Disinfection after Infectious Disease:—

Number of houses disinfected during 1943: 146.

Method: Formaldehyde.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc.: Steam when necessary.

Situation of apparatus: Whiston Institution, Warrington Road, Whiston.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods. Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
5—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—
10—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
15—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
20—	2	1	—	1	2	1	—	—
25—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—	3	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
45—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	7	8	5	8	4	1	2
	17		13		12		3	

Ratio of non-notified tubercular deaths to total tuberculosis deaths:
 2/15ths.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient?—Fairly so.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?
 —No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?—No.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.—None.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Any action taken under section 172, Public Health Act, 1936: None.

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity and Child Welfare work is carried out by the County Council.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Details of cases notified during 1943:—

CASES.			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Number Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
3	1	2	3	....	....	None

(Signed) T. U. MERCER,
 Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1944.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1943.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.																	Hospital	
Notifiable Diseases.	Total Cases at all Ages.	Age Periods.—Years.											Total Deaths.			Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.	
		Under 1.											65 and over.					
			1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—						
Smallpox	
Scarlet Fever	121	1	4	4	6	17	64	17	2	5	1	...	...	...	79	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	47	1	3	...	4	7	15	6	3	7	...	...	1	...	46	2
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (excluding German Measles)	135	1	17	21	23	13	50	4	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	106	10	13	14	13	23	31	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	118	1	3	4	5	5	16	7	8	17	22	23	7	17	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	20	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	6	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute polio-encephalitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	12	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	...	2	2	1	1	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum (See also page 15).	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	4	3	...	...	...
Malaria, Contracted—In this Country . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g., Chicken-pox . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other Disease . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	582	17	40	43	53	67	179	37	21	54	30	30	11	19	125	2		

COMPARISON OF RATES.

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—

	England & Wales.	Whiston R.D.
BIRTHS—Live	16.5	19.4
Still	0.5	0.6
DEATHS—All Causes	12.1	9.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.05
Diphtheria	0.03	0.05
Influenza	0.37	0.17
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.00

Rates per 1,000 Live Births—

Deaths under one year of age	49	65
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	5.3	15.2

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—

MATERNAL MORTALITY—

Puerperal Infection	0.39	1.49
Others	1.45	0.00
Total	1.84	1.49

